

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AN: D800015-0862

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 OCDE-00 MSAE-00
MSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PH-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-04 RP-10 SES-01 SSH-03
SSN-02 SPH-01 AID-05 SVC-00 SMS-01 /088 W
-----040159 091303Z /43

0 091100Z JAN 80
FM AMCONSUL PEENAHAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 574
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAKABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL PERHAWAR 0010

E.O. 12065: RDS 1/7/00 (D.B. ARCHARD) OR-M
TAGS: PIHS, MOPS, PEPR, SREF, AF, UR
SUBJECT: (C) NO SIGHTED RUSSIAN PRESENCE IN PARTIA

REF: ISLAMABAD 0078

1. (C) INTIRE TEXT.

2. A NEWLY ARRIVED AFGHAN REFUGEE TOLD ME JAN. 7 THAT SHE SAW NO RUSSIAN TROOPS WHILE TRAVELLING OVERLAND FROM KABUL TO PAK KURRUM AGENCY VIA GARDEZ AND OTHER POINTS IN PAKTIA PROVINCE.

3. REFUGEE CLAIMS TO HAVE TRAVELLED FROM KABUL VIA TAXI, OVERNIGHTING JAN. 5 IN VILLAGE EAST OF GARDEZ, THEN CONTINUING IN SAME VEHICLE ON ROUGH TRACKS TO KURRUM AGENCY. ONLY SIGNIFICANT MILITARY PRESENCE NOTED WAS BESIDE KABUL-GARDEZ ROAD NEAR CHARASYAB, ABOUT ONE HOUR SOUTH OF KABUL. THERE IN TENT CAMP WHICH APPEARED TO PRE-DATE CHRISTMAS INVASION, WERE UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF TANKS AND TANK TRANSPORTERS, OTHER MILITARY VEHICLES AND TRUCKS. NO TROOPS WERE

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VISIBLE. TANKS WERE SNOW COVERED, SUGGESTING RECENT

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6) Thrombocytopenic purpura.

[illegible]

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INACTIVITY.

4. IN GARDEZ, SITUATION APPEARED NORMAL. ONLY 2 OR 3 TANKS WERE VISIBLE, ALONG WITH FEW AFGHAN SOLDIERS. SHE SAW HP RUSSIANS. SON JAN. 6, AT MID-MORNING NEAR CHAKKANI, PAKTIA, TWO HELICOPTERS, PAINTED WITH CAMOUFLAGE DESIGNS, PLANES PATROLLED OVERHEAD AND DISAPPEARED. THEY DID NOT BOMB OR FIRE.

5. NEAR PAK-AFGHAN BORDER, THERE WAS MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE TOWARD PAKISTAN, BUT APPARENTLY ONLY ON EVERY-DAY BUSINESS. TAXI DRIVER SAID SOME WENT FOR SHOPPING IN PESHAWAR. CANAE

LZEN WITH TIZBER PLODOZK TOWARDS KURRUM, WHILE OTHERS RETURNED EMPTY TO AFGHANISTAN. NOONE ON ROAD CARRIED HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, SOME (*)

WHILE SHE SAW REFUGEES IN CAMPS IN KURRUM, NONE WERE ACTUALLY TRAVELLING ON ROADS.

6. COMMENT: THIS INFORMATION AT-OFDOOS WITH CURRENT CONVENTIONAL WISDOM, THAT RUSSIANS ARE INVADING PAKTIA IN FORCE AND THAT THIS IS GENERATING MANY REFUGEES INTO KURRUM. THIS SOURCE AND OTHER TRAVELLERS HAVE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE NEW REFUGEES CROSSING AT TORKHAM. I AM CHECKING.
KING

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NOTE BY OC/T: PESHAWAR 10. (*)OMISSIONS AND GARBLES THROUGHOUT TEXT. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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